The

Pasadena

Citizen



LPPD promotes traffic safety as the new school year begins

With the summer vacation season reaching its end, the La Porte Police Department is reminding drivers to remain cautious while driving within areas surrounding the city's various school campuses. As most students begin their return to school on Monday, August 22, there will be an obvious increase in the amount of pedestrian traffic, bicycle riders, school busses, and mere number of vehicles along the roadway. Additionally, motorists traveling to work should expect delays in their morning commute as school zones will be back in effect. These factors, combined with the construction-related impediments and often unforeseen weather conditions which become more frequent this time of year, call for area motorists to exhibit an increased level of caution while traveling in these sensitive areas of La Porte.

As a primary effort of ensuring community safety near district schools, La Porte patrol officers will increase their presence near LPISD campuses and will also aid school resource officers in handling various problems which occur on or near the grounds of each campus. In addition, during both the beginning and the end of each school day, La Porte Police Traffic Division members will target their enforcement efforts toward the areas surrounding schools as well. While the usual speeding, seat belt, and red-light violations will be heavily targeted, officers will also be on the look-out for vehicles blocking intersections and those who choose to avoid intersections by traveling through business parking lots or racing down residential side-streets in an effort to minimize their exposure to congested traffic areas. Just as the rule has been for the past two years, Texas State Law prohibits the use of electronic communication devices, such as cell phones, within School Zones. Fines for these violations can exceed \$300, while speeding violations within School Zones begin at \$200.

As a final reminder, the La Porte Police Department encourages drivers to consider allowing for extra travel time, and to be safe. These two techniques, along with extra attention to those on foot or riding bicycles, will undoubtedly go a long way in keeping the community safe. For more information on the department's traffic enforcement efforts, please call 281-842-3167.